

NJ Environmental Quality Incentives Program Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan Certification

Applicant Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Type of Operation: ☐ Lease Only ☐ Lease & Hatchery Size of Lease Area: _____ acres

FSA Tract Nos. _____ Location of Leased Acres: _____

☐ YES A copy of the State Shellfish License has been provided to NRCS.

☐ YES A copy of the site map showing the shellfish production areas has been provided to NRCS.

In order to meet the requirement of having an Aquaculture Management Plan, the following questions must be answered regarding the NJDEP Recommended Management Practices for Aquatic Farms:

Answer Yes, No, or Planned (within 2 years) to each item.

All questions must be answered unless the question is not applicable to the operation.

Questions for All Applicants (sections I – III):

I. General Operation:

- ☐ YES ☐ NO Netting, cages and/or other shellfish containment systems are secured and well maintained.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Scheduling of equipment removal or movement is appropriately timed to avoid severe weather and seasonal conditions (severe storms, very low water/air temperatures).
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO All shallow water gear is removed or moved to deep water licensed shellfish growing sites during winter to avoid damage, loss and transport of gear into the environment.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Records are kept of net/bag cycling, replacement, removal and movement.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Damaged nets/bags are replaced in a timely manner.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Nets/bags needing replacement are collected and properly disposed of.
☐ PLANNED

II. Water Quality

- ☐ YES ☐ NO Nets and other equipment are monitored regularly for biofouling.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO When bio-fouling restricts water flow, nets/bags are cleaned, removed, or replaced in an environmentally sound manner.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Use of in-water cleaning methods does not result in accumulation of removed materials where they may cause local degradation of the environment.
☐ PLANNED
- ☐ YES ☐ NO Redundant gear is cycled off-site to reduce excessive fouling.
☐ PLANNED

III. Security and Biosecurity:

- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Critical on-farm decision makers are identified and contact information for police, fire and other emergency responders is posted in a visible location.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED A system is in place to quickly close down intake pipes in the event of an upstream contaminant problem.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED A written SSOP (Sanitary Standard Operating Procedure) is in place.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Proper biosecurity protocols are upheld to eliminate contamination and spread of disease.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Sanitation and hand washing facilities are in place.

Questions for Applications that include Hatchery Operations (sections IV – V):

IV. Erosion Control:

- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Vegetated or stone-lined swales and/or berms direct overland and storm water through, or around the property in order to maintain natural drainage patterns.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Exposed soil is stabilized by providing vegetative cover to prevent erosion and inadvertent sedimentation of wetlands and their associated transition areas.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Erosion control measures and water control structures follow the standards and design criteria of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Discharge pipes are situated to prevent excessive scouring of the bottom in the receiving waters.

V. Salt Water Use:

- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED Pumping, intake and discharge systems do not impede natural circulation patterns, create currents that increase scouring, turbidity, or damage the surrounding habitat.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED A recirculating system is used, when appropriate, to avoid having an excess amount of either fresh or salt water leaving the site.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PLANNED All holding, transport, and culture systems are designed, operated, and maintained to prevent the accidental or intentional release of non-native aquatic species.

I certify that the above answers are correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any fraudulent or erroneous representation of any fact is grounds for denial of program benefits. I further understand that if such fraudulent or erroneous representation leads to contract approval, it will be grounds for contract termination and I will be required to pay liquidated damages and refund any program payments plus interest.

Applicant Name (please print): _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Home Phone #: (_____) _____ Business Phone #: (_____) _____

Email: _____